Hannah Dow

Annotated Bibliography Assignment

What is it? An annotation is a brief evaluative summary of a book, article, or other publication. A bibliography is a list of resources cited in a consistent style format (such as MLA). An annotated bibliography, then, is a list of cited sources with brief explanations centering around one topic or research question. The purpose is to help the reader of the bibliography understand the uses of each source and the relationships of one source to another.

Your Assignment: You are to compile ten sources on your research topic for this annotated bibliography, cited in proper MLA format. You are expected to include the following:

- 1 tertiary/background source (such as an encyclopedia—NOT Wikipedia)
- 1 book chapter
- 1 popular article
- 1 peer reviewed journal article
- 1 Internet source (such as a web page)
- 5 additional source of your choice
- One of your sources must be a "bad" source or a source that is not a good match for your research topic, and that you will not be including in your final research project. You must explain in your annotation why you will not include this source in your final project.
- You must include at least two different sources that represent diverse points-of-view.
- At least 8 of your sources must be from the library database. If you are having trouble finding information on the database to fit your topic, you should probably rethink your topic. Please talk to me if you run into trouble.

General Instructions: Your annotations for each source should be 150-200 words each. When writing your annotations, be sure to compare and contrast the source with the other sources you have included. Discuss how this work explains your ethical topic and what perspective it provides. Also, you must correctly classify each of your sources as primary, secondary, or tertiary; and as scholarly or popular. You will use the RADAR (relevance, authority, date, accuracy, and rationale) framework to evaluate your sources.
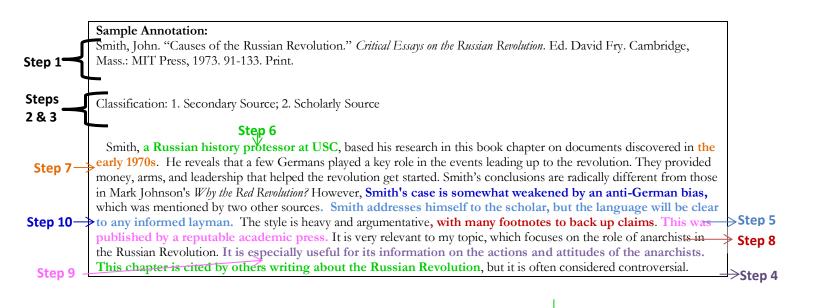
Draft DUE: 3/6

Final Annotated bibliography DUE: 3/16

Specific Instructions: Follow these steps when writing each of your annotations:

> **Step 1:** Cite the source correctly using a referencing style (such as MLA).
>
> **Step 2:** Identify whether the source is primary (original source created or experienced concurrently with the event being researched), secondary (source that analyzes, assesses, or interprets a historical event, an era, or a phenomenon), or tertiary (source that identifies, locates, and synthesizes primary AND secondary sources).

Step 3: Identify whether the source is scholarly (peer-reviewed or edited and presents original research by scholars), popular (current event piece, opinion piece, or popular culture piece written for the general public), or trade (trends, best practices, or products from a specific industry or profession).

Step 4: *Relevance*: How does this source relate to your ethical research question? What does this source add to general knowledge on your topic?

Step 5: *Relevance*: What is the intended audience level of this source and is it appropriate for your topic?

Step 6: *Authority:* Qualifications of the author (e.g., John Smith, a Russian history professor at USC, based his research on recently discovered documents). Is this source cited by other sources writing on the same topic?

Step 7: *Date:* Have you located the newest research on your topic? You must include 2 sources published within the last 5 years on your topic. Is the information obsolete? Has new information superseded the conclusions made in this source?

Step 8: *Accuracy:* Are the author's claims supported by evidence in the form of references, citations, endnotes, or a bibliography?

Step 9: *Accuracy:* Was this source reviewed or edited? Was it published by a reputable publisher such as a University press, a peer-reviewed journal, a professional society, or a scientific publisher?

Step 10: *Rationale:* Is there a bias in relation to your topic (e.g., "However, Smith's case is somewhat weakened by an anti-German bias")? State whether or not bias is present.

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Sample Annotation:

Step 1
Smith, John. "Causes of the Russian Revolution." *Critical Essays on the Russian Revolution*. Ed. David Fry. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1973. 91-133. Print.

Steps 2 & 3
Classification: 1. Secondary Source; 2. Scholarly Source

Step 6

Step 7
Smith, **a Russian history professor at USC**, based his research in this book chapter on documents discovered in **the early 1970s**. He reveals that a few Germans played a key role in the events leading up to the revolution. They provided money, arms, and leadership that helped the revolution get started. Smith's conclusions are radically different from those in Mark Johnson's *Why the Red Revolution?* However, **Smith's case is somewhat weakened by an anti-German bias,** which was mentioned by two other sources. **Smith addresses himself to the scholar, but the language will be clear** Step 5

Step 10
to any informed layman. The style is heavy and argumentative**, with many footnotes to back up claims**. **This was published by a reputable academic press.** It is very relevant to my topic, which focuses on the role of anarchists in Step 8
the Russian Revolution. **It is especially useful for its information on the actions and attitudes of the anarchists.**

Step 9
This chapter is cited by others writing about the Russian Revolution, but it is often considered controversial. Step 4

Step 6

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Rubric for Evaluation of Annotated Bibliography

Criteria	Points Possible	Developing	Competent	Accomplished
(Citation) Identifies bibliographic information in citations.	10	Citations have major errors in the identification of bibliographic information such as author, title, source, publisher, and date.	Citations have minor errors in the identification of bibliographic information such as author, title, source, publisher, and date.	Citations correctly identify bibliographic information such as author, title, source, publisher, and date.
(Citation) Cites sources correctly using a referencing style.	10	Citations have major grammatical, spelling, formatting, or stylistic errors.	Citations have minor grammatical, spelling, formatting, or stylistic errors.	Citations are free of grammatical, spelling, formatting, or stylistic errors.
(Classification) Distinguishes between primary, secondary, and tertiary sources.	2	A large number of sources incorrectly identified as primary, secondary, or tertiary.	Most sources correctly identified as primary, secondary, or tertiary (5 out of 6).	All sources correctly identified as primary, secondary, or tertiary.
(Classification) Distinguishes between scholarly, popular, and trade sources.	5	A large number of sources incorrectly identified as scholarly, popular, or trade.	Most sources correctly identified as scholarly, popular, or trade (5 out of 6).	All sources correctly identified as scholarly, popular, or trade.
(Annotation) Relevance: Identifies content /main purpose of sources.	10	Does not address usefulness for research topic of a large number of sources. Does not demonstrate higher level critical thinking in stating how source adds to general knowledge on research topic.	Tries to address usefulness for research topic of most sources. Tends towards summary rather than higher level critical thinking in stating how source adds to general knowledge on research topic.	Addresses usefulness for research topic of all sources. Demonstrates sophisticated level of critical thinking in stating how source adds to general knowledge on research topic.
(Annotation) Relevance: Identifies audience level.	5	Incorrectly identifies audience or fails to address audience level for a large number of sources.	Correctly identifies and addresses audience level most of the time, but not for all sources.	Correctly identifies and addresses audience level for all sources.
(Annotation)	5	Fails to accurately identify author	Accurately identifies author qualifications and whether	Accurately identifies author qualifications and

Authority: Identifies authority of author.		qualifications and whether the source has been cited by others, for a large number of sources.	the source has been cited by others, for most (but not all) sources.	whether the source has been cited by others, for all sources.
(Annotation) Date/Currency (if applicable): Identifies recent research on topic.	5	The most up-to-date research has not been consulted. No sources published within last 5 years.	Retrieves 1 source published within the last 5 years, but should have included more.	Retrieves 2 or more sources published within the last 5 years.
(Annotation) Accuracy: Recognizes if claims were supported by research.	2	Fails to accurately address whether claims are supported by research (citations/ endnotes/bibliography / references) for a large number of sources.	Accurately addresses whether claims are supported by research (citations/ endnotes/ bibliography/references) for most (but not all) sources.	Accurately addresses whether claims are supported by research (citations/endnotes/ bibliography/ references) for all sources.
(Annotation) Accuracy: Distinguishes between reputable vs. non-reputable publishers**.**	3	Fails to correctly distinguish between reputable versus non-reputable publishers for a large number of sources.	Correctly distinguishes between reputable versus non-reputable publishers for most (but not all) sources.	Correctly distinguishes between reputable versus non-reputable publishers for all sources.
(Annotation) Rationale: Recognizes author bias/intentions.	5	Fails to correctly identify or address author bias/intentions for most sources.	Correctly identifies or addresses author bias/intentions for most (but not all) sources.	Correctly identifies or addresses author bias/intentions for all sources.
(Overall) Includes multiple viewpoints.	5	A single viewpoint is represented. No comparisons are made across sources with different perspectives. Does not develop insights based upon a variety of perspectives.		Two opposing viewpoints or more are represented. Comparisons are made across sources with opposing perspectives. Develops some insights based on this.
(Overall) Includes 10 sources.	10	Includes fewer than 6 sources.		Includes 10 sources.
(Overall) Includes variety in material types.	13	Is missing 2 or more required source types (1 tertiary/background, 1 book chapter, 1 popular article, 1 peer	Is missing 1 of the required source types (1 tertiary/background, 1 book chapter, 1 popular article, 1	Includes all of the required source types (1 tertiary/background, 1 book chapter, 1 popular

Assignment adapted from G. Sonntag, "Help in Writing Annotations," and American College of Greece, RADAR framework.

		reviewed article, 1 Internet).	peer reviewed article, 1 Internet).	article, 1 peer reviewed article, 1 Internet).
(Overall) Includes 1 "bad" or irrelevant source for research topic.	10	Does not include 1 "bad" or irrelevant source and does not accurately and completely explain why it should be excluded (criteria can include any of the following: relevancy, accuracy, authority, currency, or bias).	Includes 1 "bad" or irrelevant source, but inaccurately or incompletely explains why it should be excluded (criteria can include any of the following: relevancy, accuracy, authority, currency, or bias).	Includes 1 "bad" or irrelevant source and accurately and completely explains why it should be excluded (criteria can include any of the following: relevancy, accuracy, authority, currency, or bias).